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Title: Neet to set up a Coconut Research Centre at Silagam village, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): There is a vast area of coconut plantation spread over 80 kms. in my Srikakulam Constituency besides East Godavari and West Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh. The coconut farmers are suffering a lot on account of several coconut crop diseases for which remedies are not known to them. So, the quality of coconut is also dwindling and its size is also becoming small. The farmers silently watch the decay of their coconut produce. I requested earlier also to start a Central Coconut Research Centre at "Silagam Village", Kaviti Mandal, Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh to research and eradicate the problems of coconut farmers with suitable pesticides. Such Research Centre can also develop formulae for better quality yields of coconut by undertaking soil testing of the area. I understand that Government of India have already acquired land for the purpose.

I, therefore, once again appeal to Government of India that the Central Coconut Research Centre may be started at Silagam village immediately to encourage and propagate coconut business and boost its export.